

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 414

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS UAN SALVADOR 0980

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FEBRUARY 24. FOR IPS/PL, IBS, IOP/M. BOTH MORNING PAPERS, HIGH CIRCULATION LA PRENSA GRAFICA AND EL DIARIO DE HOY, FRONT PAGED COVERAGE OF THE MEETING OF PRESIDENTS MOLINA AND MELGAR IN THE SALVADORAN BORDER TOWN OF EL POY. CITALA. THE TWO HOUR MEETING TOOK PLACE MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23. PRENSA GRAFICA BANNERED "PRONTA SOLUCION CON HONDURAS" WITH LARGE FRONT PAGE PHOTO SHOWING THE PRESENTS AND AIDES WALKING TOWARDS MEETING PLACE, THE CUSTOMS OFFICES OF THE TOWN. JUMP PAGE ITEM QUOTED BOTH PRESIDENTS AS STATING "IT IS HOPED TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WITHIN A SHORT TIME". THE ITEM STATED THAT THE MEETING WAS MARKED BY "NOTABLE CORDIALITY". ALSO, ACCORDING TO THIS STORY, BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS, ALONG WITH LARGE STAFFS, PARTICIPATED. IN A RELATED EDITORIAL, LA PRENSA GRAFICA QUESTIONED "THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES" AND HOPED THE GOVERNMENTS WOULD LET THE PUBLIC KNOW WHAT TRANSPIRES DURING THEIR FREQUENT MEETINGS.

SAID LA PRENSA GRAFICA (EXCERPTS):

"SIEMPRE HEMOS DICHO QUE RESULTA EN DESMEDRO DE LA SERIEDAD Y DIGNIDAD DE LOS GOBIERNOS ALUDIDOS, EL QUE LA INFORMACION VENGA DEL EXTERIOR, SOLO PARA SER CONFIRMADA POR LAS RESPECTIVAS OFICINAS DE PRENSA DE LOS PRECITADOS PAISES...

"NADA DE LO QUE AL FINAL DE CUENTAS VENGAN A RESOLVER LOS GOBERNANTES (DE HONDURAS Y EL SALVADOR) VA A QUEDAR EN EL SECRETO

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DE LAS CANCELLERIAS O DE LOS DESPACHOS PRESIDENCIALES. UN

ASUNTO DE LA IMPORTANCIA QUE REVISTE LA REANUDACION DE LAS RELACIONES NORMALES ENTRE AMBOS PAISES, DE NINGUNA MANERA DEBIERA LLEVARSE A CABO A ESPALDA DE LA OPINION PUBLICA."

EL DIARIO DE HOY FRONT-PAGED A PHOTO OF MOLINA DN MELGAR CASTRO AT EL POY AND IN A JUMP PAGE LOCAL STORY DESCRIBED THE MEETING IN DETAIL. THE STORY SAID: " POR MAS DE TRES HORAS EL PRESIDENTE MOLINA Y EL JEFE DE GOBIERNO DE HONDURAS, GENERAL JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR CASTRO, CONVERSARON AYER (FEBERO 22) EN EL EDIFICIO DE LA ADUANA DE EL POY, EN LA FRONTERA DE AMBOS PAISES ... LOS JEFES DE GOBIERNO SE REUNIERON EN PRIVADO EN UNA DE LAS SALAS DEL EDIFICIO...SEGUN DIJO EL PRESIDENTE MOLINA AL SALIR DE LA REUNION, ESTA SIRVIO PARA ANALIZAR EL ESTADO DE LAS NEGOCIACIONES ENTRE LOS DOS PAISES QUE NO TIENEN RELACIONES DESDE JULIO DE 1969, DESIGNAR LOS FUNCIONARIOS QUE BUSCARAN SOLUCION A PROBLEMAS QUE SE HAN PRESENTADO EN LOS ULTIMOS DIAS Y UNIFICAR CRITERIOS ACERCA DE COMO DEBEN ABORDARSE ALGUNAS DIFICULTADES. EL GENERAL MELGAR CASTRO POR SU PARTE SE LIMITO A DECIR QUE LA REUNION TENDRA SUS PROVECHOSOS RESULTADOS.

"LOS JEFES DE GOBIERNO DESIGNARON A LOS MINISTEROS DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES PARA QUE ESTUDIEN EL ESTADO DE LAS NEGOCIACIONES Y HAGAN LAS RECOMENDACIONES NECESARIAS. ADEMAS, SE ACORDO ENCOMENDAR A LOS MINISTROS DE ECONOMIA DE AMBOS PAISES QUE ESTUDIEN EL PROBLEMA DE LA COMERCIALIZACION DEL PLATANO Y EL BANANO...LOS JEFES DE GOBIERNO ACORDARON TAMBIEN MANTENERSE EN COMUNICACION CONSTANTE."

GRIFFITHS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION REPORT FEBRUARY 24. FOR IPS/PL, IBS, IOP/M. BOTH MORNING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, ES, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
**To:** STATE  
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